

BRIEFING TO MINISTER MENDICINO ON THE “FREEDOM CONVOY”

2022-01-27

CSIS Mandate

- CSIS’ mandate is to investigate and advise the Government of threats to our national security, which are clearly defined in the *CSIS Act* as espionage and sabotage, foreign influenced-activities, terrorism and violent extremism, and subversion.
- CSIS is specifically prohibited from investigating lawful protest and dissent, except when it is accompanied by a significant threat to national security.

Freedom Convoy

- While the organizers intend the convoy to be a peaceful protest, there are indications that ideologically-motivated violent extremism (IMVE) actors – who are part of the anti-public health measures movement – have expressed interests in attending in Ottawa to support the convoy.
 - American online personalities who share similar views about public health measures have expressed support for the convoy.
- CSIS is investigating IMVE activities and monitoring IMVE social media content. There has been online commentary calling for violence and storming Parliament Hill buildings. s.38
- CSIS is tracking the engagement of s.38 targets in relation to the convoy. Over the coming days, CSIS will be monitoring the involvement of these targets and other persons of interests, in particular for any indications of mobilization to violence.
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- Within the broader protest, it is possible that opportunistic, low-level violence (e.g. vandalism, mischief) will occur over the weekend.
- CSIS is unaware, at this time, of any tangible plots or plans of serious violence.
- The convergence of people on Parliament Hill also represents an opportunity for other individuals or small groups, inspired for example by religiously-motivated violent extremism, to engage in threat activities. s.38

Posture

- CSIS will remain engaged with the RCMP to ensure timely sharing of information.
- Other streams of intelligence reporting will be carefully monitored for chatter linked to the event, particularly threats of serious violence.
- CSIS employees will be on monitoring the developing situation over the weekend.

SECRET

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Targets

- CSIS is investigating the activities of s.38 targets in relation to the convoy.

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